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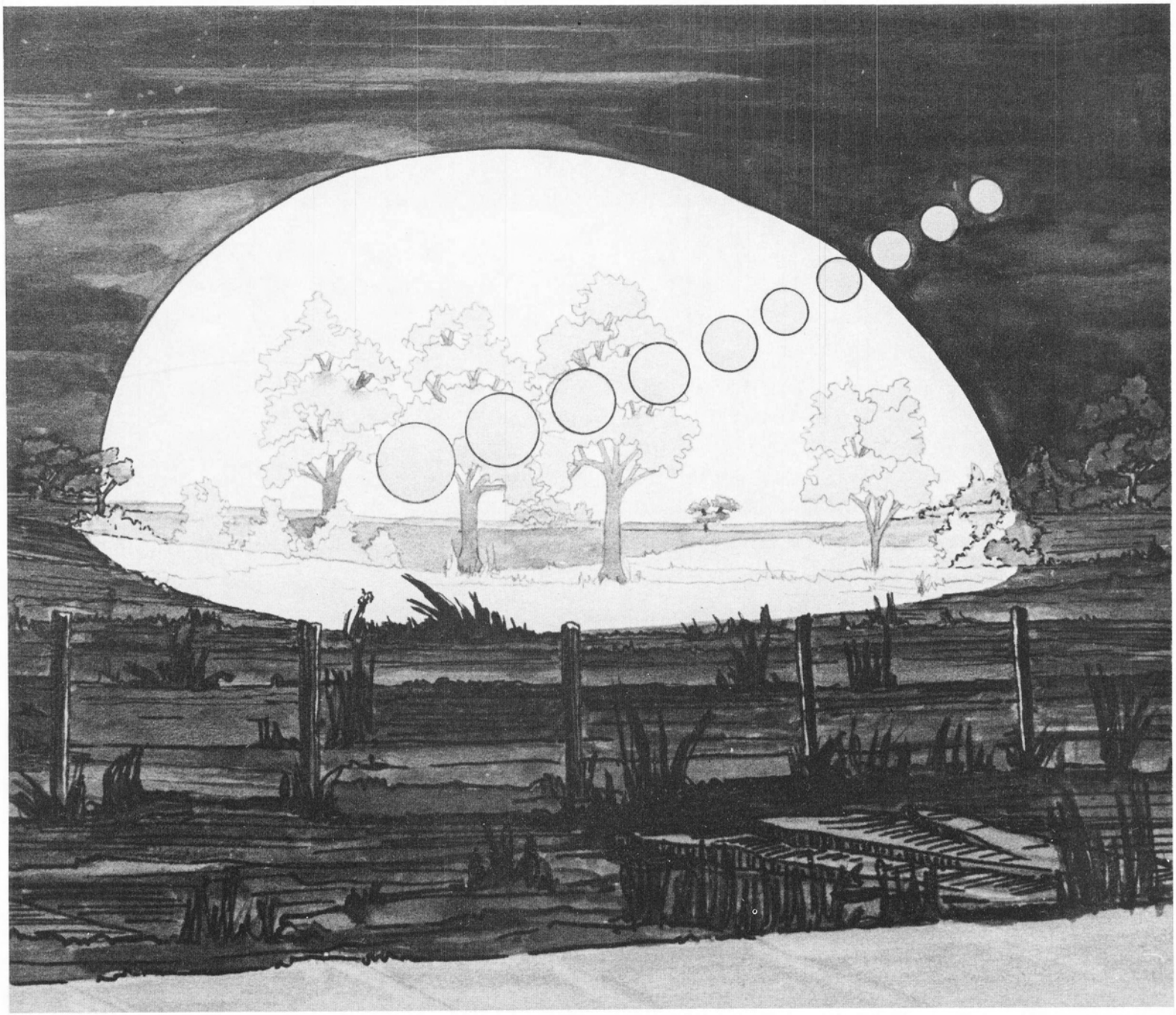

Analysis of the Canadian wave

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

Editor:
Jerome Clark

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Nancy Clark

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Richard Hall

Contributing Editors:
Bill Chalker
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Richard F. Haines
Jenny Randles
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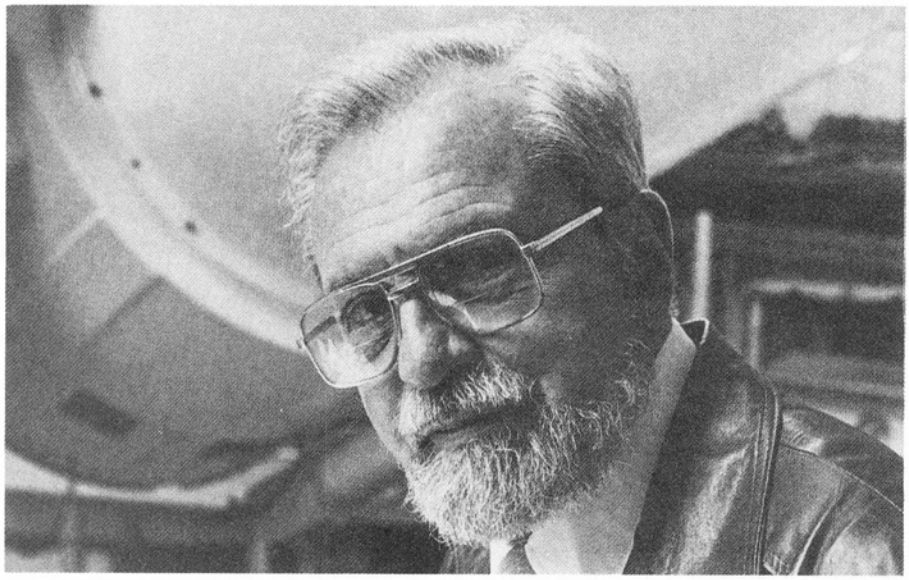
Artist:
Don Schmitt



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EDITORIAL: Somebody's wrong 3

Did a balloon crash at Roswell? *by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle* 4

The Canadian wave: an analysis *by Chris Rutkowski* 6

Through the secrecy barrier *by V. D. Musinsky* 14

UFO studies in the scientific literature *by I. Scott* 16

Letters 18

Cover illustration: Artist's conception of UFO in Sandy Larson abduction case, Buffalo, N.D., August 26, 1975. From the CUFOS files. previously unpublished.

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EDITORIAL

Somebody's wrong

Jerome Clark

Elsewhere in this issue we publish letters from Budd Hopkins and Ed Walters. *IUR* readers who are unfamiliar with recent developments in the Gulf Breeze, Florida, UFO case will have no idea what these two gentlemen are referring to. Thus a brief explanation and update are in order:

On June 10 the *Pensacola News Journal* reported the discovery of a model of a UFO much like (though not precisely identical to) the ones Walters allegedly filmed and photographed. The model was found inside the house the Walterses had occupied during the UFO events, which mostly ended in May 1988. Subsequently the family moved and the house sat unoccupied for 11 months until another family, the Menzers, moved in. Robert Menzer told Craig Myers of the *News Journal,* "I was going to install an icemaker and I needed to turn off the water. I was fooling around in the attic and I was moving insulation aside when I saw it. I never would have found it if I hadn't been looking for the pipe."

Soon, however, it became apparent that this potentially devastating discovery was not the debunkers' long-sought proof. Walters charged that someone seeking to discredit him had planted the model in the empty house. He also suggested that the draft paper used in construction of the model had been stolen from the garbage at his new home. In fact, on the back of the paper were plans in Walters' handwriting for a house (never built), and he and the man for whom he prepared the design attested that Walters made the drawing in September 1989. In other words, Walters could not have used this model in his picture-taking.

Exactly one week later, on the 17th, the *News Journal* had another story: that a young man (subsequently identified as Tom Smith, Jr.) had told reporters and city officials that he'd known of the UFO hoax from the beginning, when he saw Walters take double-exposure photographs. (Walters and his defenders have insisted that he did not know double-exposure techniques.) Smith related that Walters had tried to enlist him in the hoax, by asking him to testify that five fake photos of Walters' creation were authentic UFO pictures he (Smith) had taken. Smith has described in detail the methods by which he says the pictures were faked.

Walters' defenders counter that the pictures have stood up under extensive photoanalysis by Bruce Maccabee; that a man Smith identified as an accomplice disputes Smith's version of events, and therefore Smith's claims are entirely unverified; that Walters has passed four "lie-detection" tests; that psychological testing attest to his sincerity and sanity; and that other Gulf Breeze residents whom no one has accused of being hoaxers have reported seeing UFOs identical to those in Walters' photos.

At the moment there is far more fog than sunlight in Gulf Breeze. Perhaps in the next few weeks we will be better able to assess the meaning of these remarkable developments in one of the most complex and divisive cases in UFO history. I think everyone can agree that the logical next steps are for Smith to take a polygraph examination and for someone to determine whether Gulf Breeze-style photographs can be manufactured using the techniques Smith says Walters employed.

Until then, until the many remaining questions are answered, we would do well to reserve judgment, however much our instincts may be nudging us quietly in one direction or another. In the last month I have spoken with a number of knowledgeable persons with radically conflicting perspectives on the current state of affairs. Yet whether they were supporters or detractors, they talked sensibly. When reasonable people see the same thing so differently, we know that clouds of ambiguity are obscuring important parts of the object under scrutiny. All we know for certain is that somebody is right and somebody is wrong, and to find out who is which, what is now hidden will have to become visible.

In the controversies that rage around puzzling, troublesome phenomena such as UFOs, emotions run high, and all too often the resulting rhetoric sails into the polemical stratosphere. Professional debunkers have declared—and some may even believe—that anything short of uncompromising dismissal of UFO reports puts at risk the very foundations of Western civilization. We all remember the merriment that ensued when it was learned a celebrated UFOphobe had equated UFO-cover-up proponents with subversives out to undermine faith in the integrity of the U.S. government. Alas, some ufologists

continued on page 24

Did a balloon crash at Roswell?

by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle

■■ Don Schmitt, CUFOS director of special investigations, and Kevin D. Randle are authors of *Roswell,* to be published late this year.

As the Roswell case has become an ever more prominent issue in UFO research, a growing chorus of would-be explainers is insisting that the object that crashed in the New Mexico desert in July 1947 was nothing more than a balloon. The balloon explanation is not a single hypothesis, but several. We are told that the object was a regular weather balloon, or perhaps a radiosonde balloon or Rawin weather balloon or a Skyhook. One theorist has even suggested that it was a Japanese atomic weapon, launched before the war ended but not located until two years later.

Because the Army announced within hours that Mac Brazel had discovered a balloon and Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey displayed a balloon in Fort Worth, it seems that the evidence would support such an interpretation. Until, that is, all the facts are examined, all the witnesses heard, and all the evidence reviewed.

The first question that leaps to mind is why the men of the 509th Bomb Group, the only atomic-bomb group in the world—men selected for their expertise, training and skills—would not be able to identify a simple balloon when they saw it. Even one of the Rawin target devices, which was a series of balloons and a "tail" of foil reflectors, should have been identifiable as a balloon. Such balloons, of course, were constructed of very common, conventional materials that could not have been mistaken for anything extraordinary.

Only a few days earlier, Sherman Campbell of Circleville, Ohio, had found a similar balloon on his farm. Members of the Roundtree UFO Society, including Pete Hartinger, Delbert Anderson, and Jon Fry, investigated the story. Their investigation provided us with some information that sheds light on the Roswell event.

According to the newspaper accounts, Campbell found the device on his farm and knew immediately that it was some kind of weather balloon. Thinking that it might provide a solution to the reports of "flying disks," he took it to the local sheriff, who also recognized it as a weather balloon. It wasn't necessary for either Campbell or the sheriff to call the military to have the balloon identified.

The balloon was described in the newspaper as "about fifty inches high, forty-eight inches wide, and [it] weighed about two pounds. . . . Silver foil was stretched over a wooden frame. . . . [It] was a star-shaped object [and] had six points."

Campbell said he didn't know how big it was when inflated, and his discovery was the first reported in the United States during the early post-Arnold UFO flap. The balloon was unusual enough to lead Campbell to wonder if a fully-inflated version, seen reflecting the sun, might resemble one of the flying saucers. But at no time did Campbell think that it was a flying saucer.

The wreckage was taken to the office of the *Circleville Herald* and placed on display for several days. The wreckage was finally returned to Campbell. His daughter Jean Romero says it was left in the barn for several years.

The Circleville story was pushed off the front pages by the recovery of debris in New Mexico. There are some significant differences between the Circleville event and the Roswell crash, and we shall examine these presently. First, however, we need to look at the firsthand testimony of the persons involved in the latter occurrence.

Mac Brazel, the rancher who discovered the material, had lived in Lincoln County, New Mexico, all his life. He had found weather balloons on a number of occasions and was familiar with them. According to his son Bill Jr., the family had sent in the instrument packages from two of these for the five- or ten-dollar rewards. What Brazel found on July 3, 1947, did not look like any balloon he had ever seen, nor did the material resemble anything he had ever examined before.

According to Brazel's closest neighbors, Floyd and Loretta Proctor, Brazel decided to take his find into Roswell to show the sheriff. Friends living in Corona suggested the same thing. On Sunday, July 6, Brazel left for Roswell with the material.

The descriptions of what this material looked like are remarkably consistent. It was light in weight, almost weightless, like balsa but could not be cut and would not burn. Foil-like pieces could be crushed but would unfold with absolutely no sign of a fold or crease. This is what Loretta Proctor says. It is also what Jesse Marcel, the intelligence officer of the 509th Bomb Group, said, as have Robert Smith and counterintelligence agent Lewis

Rickett. The dull, gray material was unusual by all conventional standards. Its strange qualities made an impression on all who saw it.

Brazel showed some of it to the Chaves County sheriff, George A. Wilcox, who thought enough of it to call the military at the Roswell Army Air Field. Maj. Marcel, Col. William Blanchard, the 509th commanding officer, and a counterintelligence (CIC) agent in civilian clothes responded to the call.

Unable to identify the material easily, Blanchard dispatched Marcel and the CIC agent to the Brazel ranch. What they found there was not a weather balloon. Marcel said that the debris was scattered over three-quarters of a mile by 200 or 300 feet wide. Others who were on the site also described the debris field—a much larger area than even the largest balloon could possibly cover.

Marcel, Brazel and the others said that the debris was torn up, as if something had exploded in the air. Small pieces were scattered so thickly that Brazel's sheep refused to cross the field but had to be herded around it.

Those who were on the field and those who saw it in later weeks talked about a gouge related to the crash. It started at the northern end of the site and ran for 500 or 600 feet. It looked as if something had struck at a low angle and skipped across the high-desert ground.

Some curiosity-seekers tried to get out to the crash site. All were turned back by a military cordon. According to firsthand witnesses, the military vehicle was parked beside the road and as a car approached, one of the soldiers came forward to announce that the road was closed. The military was not letting civilians into the area.

The wreckage was not a single piece that could be thrown into the back of a car. It was collected by the military under the highest security by 50 or 60 men who spent two or three days cleaning the field of all the wreckage. They used wheelbarrows and collected the debris at sentry points where it was loaded into trucks.

Marcel flew a small portion of it to Fort Worth on July 8. While Marcel was flying to Eighth Air Force Headquarters, there were still men on the field collecting the debris. Robert Smith told us that he saw no fewer than three C-54s loaded with debris. These are in addition to the B-29 in which Marcel flew to Fort Worth. In future issues of *IUR* we will discuss additional flights we have confirmed.

Once in Fort Worth, Marcel was photographed with a balloon. It was not, Marcel said, the real wreckage. It was, in fact, a weather balloon, but there was no evidence in those photographs of the six-pointed star that could be used to reflect radar waves. And even if Marcel wasn't familiar with radar, as suggested by more than one skeptic, he should have been able to recognize a balloon as such. In any case, on his staff Marcel had a radar-interpretation officer who would have been able to recognize the balloon.

What we have is a story that is in no way consistent with a weather-balloon interpretation. We have a rancher who might have been fooled but probably wasn't. We have military officers who were trained in the identification of various military and civilian aircraft, both foreign and domestic, and who knew something about weather balloons. They were aware that the base weather officer released a balloon daily from the tallest building in Roswell.

We have a military unit that responded rapidly, cordoning the area and collecting the debris. We have men giving us descriptions that are not of any kind of weather balloon. These descriptions speak of a foil that when rolled into a ball would unfold itself, material resembling what today we would call "fiber optics," and sheets of material as thin as newsprint that could not be dented with a sledgehammer. No claim that these were part of a balloon is sustainable.

Yes, there were balloon launchings, including one from Alamogordo on June 28 and the already mentioned daily launch from Roswell. But we have a debris field far too large for any kind of balloon. We have material that was not used in the construction of balloons. And the first Skyhook balloon was not launched until September 1947—2½ months after the Roswell incident.

Now let us return to the Circleville recovery. Sherman Campbell knew what it was as soon as he saw it. The sheriff recognized it immediately when it was brought in, and the military did not spirit it away. The newspaper that displayed it knew what it was and when interest in it died, the balloon was returned to Campbell.

By way of contrast, the Roswell object was unrecognized by everybody, and the military moved in and recovered every piece of it. Brazel was held by authorities in Roswell for a week and forced to take an oath of secrecy before his release.

Yet strangely, skeptics continue to insist the Roswell object was a balloon. They insist that the event grew out of hysteria among the officers and men who belonged to this extraordinarily important military base. But the skeptics have failed to produce one firsthand witness who was on the crash site anywhere from July 7 to July 16 and who will assert the material was from a downed balloon. Nor have they been able to cite a single witness who saw the hypothesized balloon at the ranch or at the base in Roswell in July 1947.

All the evidence suggests that the object recovered at Circleville was definitely a balloon. All the evidence suggests that the object recovered at Roswell was something far more fantastic. At this late stage it is strange that this argument must be made; the facts long ago ruled out the balloon explanation at Roswell, and not a single reason to believe it has ever emerged. It is time to take the inquiry elsewhere. Theories with no foundation in evidence do not merit our continued consideration. ■

The Canadian wave: an analysis

by Chris Rutkowski

■■ Chris Rutkowski, an *IUR* contributing editor, is the author of *Visitations?: Manitoba UFO Experiences* (1989) and a curator at the University of Manitoba. This article is a follow-up to his "The Canadian UFO Wave of 1989," published in the November/December 1989 issue of *IUR*.

In late 1989 an appeal went out to all known Canadian ufologists and organizations for their assistance in determining the extent and character of the UFO wave that had occurred that year. There had been sporadic reports of UFOs from a number of provinces, but it was difficult for any one area to grasp the extent of the situation, although there was an awareness that several flaps had taken place. News media had carried some of the local reports and occasionally there had been national coverage.

It presented an interesting challenge: gather reports from across Canada and find out if any patterns, sighting links, or flap movements had occurred.

A standard letter was drafted and sent out to about 25 persons or groups involved in ufology. These included ufologists with a high media profile as well as those who in some ways are more active but out of the limelight.

The results were not unexpected. Only a handful of ufologists responded from across Canada, but I suspect that these contributors may be the most active in the field. The quality of the cases received was generally high. The largest number of reports came from the files of the National Research Council of Canada, through the efforts of a few individuals. Ninety-two cases were thus uncovered and made available for analysis (see the Appendix).

A total of 141 cases were analyzed, representing all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island and the Yukon (Table 1). As might be expected, the provinces with the largest population base reported the most cases, but not many more in relation to the prairies, which boasted over one-third of the cases. The map plots about half of the cases listed, with a dark circle representing at least one report. Most of the remaining cases are reports from an already-plotted location. For those familiar with Canadian geography, the distribution roughly reflects the distribution of population in the country. There is, however, an evident overabundance of reports plotted in the prairie region. This is the first suggestion that the 1989 wave was most noticeable in western Canada.

The distribution of cases by hour (local time) shows the now-familiar breakdown with peaks in the late evening (Table 2). There are not enough data to establish definitely the double peaks found in other studies, and the 1989 distribution merely suggests a double peak during the last three hours of the daily cycle. But the presence of sightings throughout the rest of the day implies that objects are continually being observed, whether they be daylight disks or nocturnal lights (which comprise the bulk of the reports).

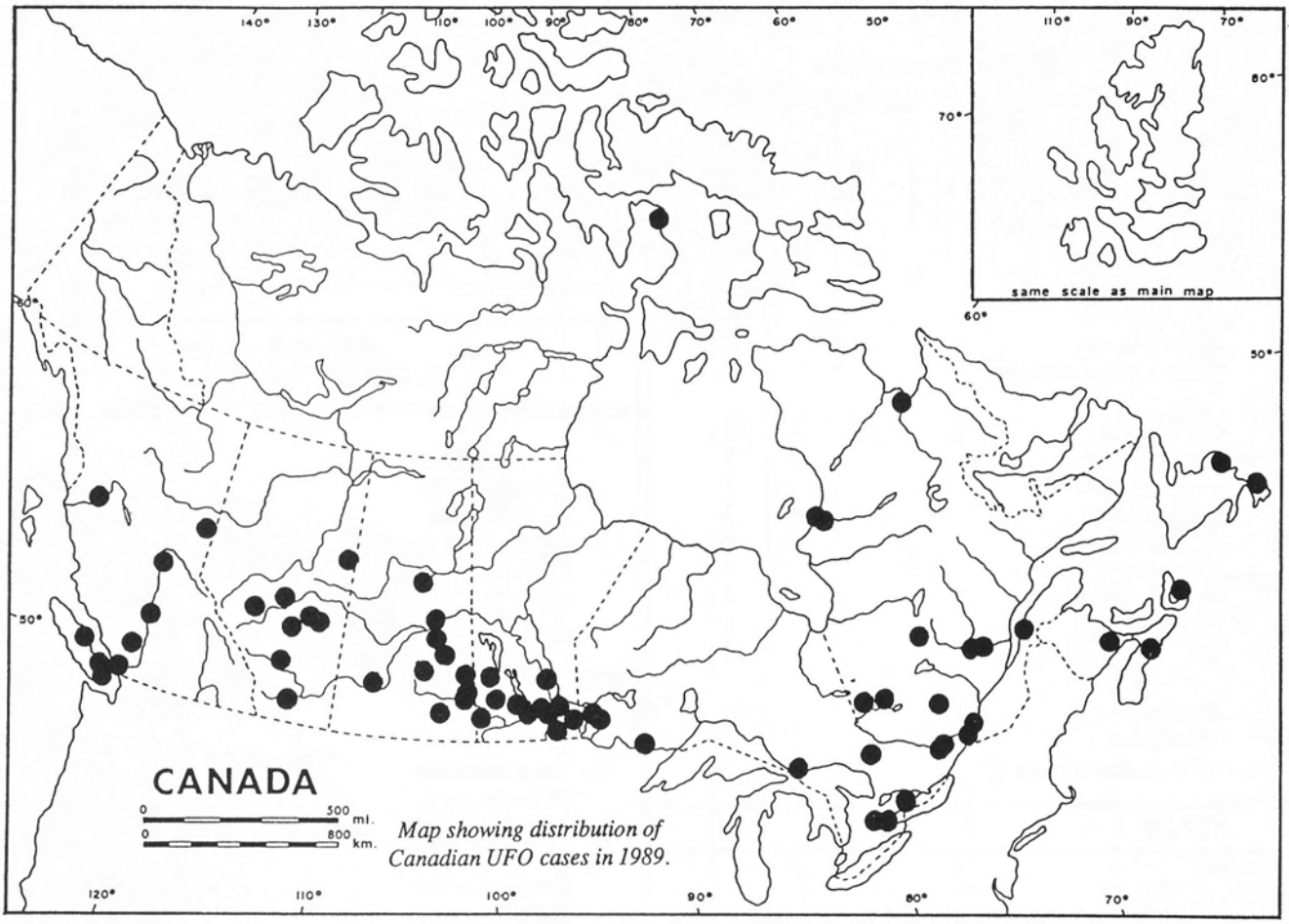
Nocturnal lights comprise about 60% of the reports and nocturnal disks about 14% (Table 3). Nocturnal disks are a subcategory of nocturnal UFOs classified by Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM) since the 1970s. They differ from nocturnal lights only in that a definite shape or illuminated object is reported by witnesses. Since they cannot by definition be daylight disks, and these UFOs are still too far away to class as close encounters, the new category of nocturnal disks was adopted.

Proper daylight disks represented 11% of the cases from 1989. There were 17 close encounters, about 12% of the body of reports studied. There were two reports of "landing traces," unrelated to actual UFO sightings. Also there were two reports of cattle mutilations, with associ-

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES BY PROVINCE

British Columbia	15
Alberta	16
Saskatchewan	18
Manitoba	22
Ontario	34
Quebec	28
New Brunswick	1
Prince Edward Island	0
Nova Scotia	3
Newfoundland	3
Yukon	0
Northwest Territories	1

n = 141



Map showing distribution of Canadian UFO cases in 1989.

ated UFO reports. The mutilations were included in the analyses only because of a prevailing belief in some circles that the phenomena are related, though most would agree there is no incontrovertible evidence to support this contention. (Nonetheless it is interesting to note that the mutilation reports came from areas that had a great deal of UFO activity in 1989.)

Data was compiled on the duration of sighting, when available (Table 4). Seventy-five percent of the reports with a specified duration were more than 30 seconds in length. Eighteen percent were for periods of one hour or more. These latter cases were most likely observations of astronomical objects, as were those of only a few seconds. There were many reports of apparent bolides (fireballs), described as blue or green objects shooting off sparks, sometimes leaving a trail and being visible for just a few seconds. In some cases such objects reportedly remained in view for several minutes, but careful questioning and recreation of the event reduce this time substantially. Because human time perception is imper-

TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES BY LOCAL TIME

0000 (midnight)	11	1200	2
0100	4	1300	0
0200	3	1400	2
0300	5	1500	0
0400	2	1600	7
0500	5	1700	1
0600	0	1800	8
0700	3	1900	11
0800	2	2000	11
0900	0	2100	19
1000	4	2200	11
1100	1	2300	16

n = 128

TABLE 3
CASE BREAKDOWN BY TYPE

Nocturnal light	84
Nocturnal disk	20
Daylight disk	16
Close encounter of the first kind	10
Close encounter of the second kind	7
Evidence only (rings in fields, etc.)	2
Animal mutilation reports	2

n = 141

TABLE 4
DURATION OF SIGHTING

One second	1
Two seconds	2
Three seconds	6
Four seconds	0
Five seconds	1
Six seconds	1
Seven seconds	2
Eight seconds	0
Nine to thirty seconds	9
One minute	12
Two minutes	5
Three minutes	3
Four minutes	3
Five minutes	9
Six minutes	0
Seven minutes	1
Eight minutes	1
Nine to fifteen minutes	17
One hour	11
Two hours	4
Three hours or more	1

n = 89

TABLE 5
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES BY CONCLUSION

Insufficient information	74 (i)
Possible or probable evaluation	47 (p)
Unknown (no conventional explanation)	20 (u)

n = 141

TABLE 6
UNKNOWNS ONLY

Nocturnal lights	5
Nocturnal disks	3
Daylight disks	4
Close encounters of the first kind	4
Close encounters of the second kind	3
Evidence only	1

n = 20

One witness	67
Two witnesses	34
Three witnesses	9
Four witnesses	10
Five witnesses	0
Six witnesses	1
Seven witnesses	3
Eight witnesses	0
Nine or more witnesses	4

n = 128 m_{case} = 2.12 witnesses/case

fect, data on sighting duration is of little true value. They can only serve to show that UFOs are not necessarily a fleeting phenomenon.

Cases were also analyzed according to their conclusion, as subjectively evaluated by the compiler (Table 5). Although some contributing ufologists noted their own conclusions with their submitted reports, the cases were reevaluated by the compiler for consistency in the categorization. In most circumstances the submitted conclusion was accepted.

As can be seen, over 50% of the cases studied lacked sufficient information for proper analyses. These included newspaper accounts of sightings and many reports from the NRC files. In addition, some reports were obtained secondhand from noncooperating UFO groups and were similarly lacking in information or their reliability could not be determined.

Approximately one-third of the cases were thought to have possible or probable explanations, given the available data. This was an entirely subjective judgment on the compiler's part and may not be immutable. An example of such a case is one in which a nocturnal light was seen to fly near the horizon, over a mile from the witness. If the witness was observing from a relatively urban area, with airports nearby, there is a strong likelihood that an aircraft was misidentified, even if the witness was described as "familiar with the appearance of aircraft." (I have often been in the company of such persons and have been amazed at their eagerness to believe a distant aircraft was a UFO.) This does not mean that all such cases are of this kind and it furthermore does not indicate that all cases with these characteristics were thought to have probable explanations. What this does indicate is how subjective UFO-report evaluations can be and what kinds of problems one is likely to confront.

Fourteen percent of the cases were given an evaluation of "unknown," which does not mean, of course, that 14% of the cases were "really" flying saucers. These cases simply represent reports that do not suggest a conventional explanation, based on available data (Table 6). It should be emphasized that if enough data had not been available for an evaluation, these reports would probably have ended up with an "insufficient" label. Cases in the unknown category generally are by above-average observers, multiple witnesses and independent witnesses; have been investigated to a significant degree by qualified individuals; and do not appear to be easily explainable as aircraft, balloons, clouds, stars or other natural or man-made phenomena usually responsible for IFO reports. In some cases "physical evidence" may have been found associated circumstantially with the case

TABLE 7
MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF CASES

January	13
February	9
March	6
April	9
May	5
June	9
July	5
August	5
September	12
October	32
November	27
December	9

n = 141

TABLE 8
TOTAL GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION
WITH RESPECT TO MONTH

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BC	2	2	1	2	1	1		1	2	2	1	
AL	3	3	1	1	1		1			3	1	2
SK			1				1		1	3	3	3
MB					2	2		2	2	7	5	2
ON	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	2	3	6	7	1
PQ	5	1	1	2		1	1		2	5	9	1
NB							1					
PEI												
NS		1		1					1			
NF						2			1			
YK												
NWT											1	

(such as rings of crushed grass in fields). But because these are subjective evaluations by volunteer researchers, the conclusion "unknown" is not final. It is possible that with further investigation, additional information will suggest a conventional explanation. Even though some of the competent investigators on some of the cases were officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, they, too, may have let their own opinions affect their objectivity and they may have overlooked or neglected some detail which may have suggested an explanation.

We can further examine only the CE cases considered unknowns in order to find the incidents with both high strangeness and no obvious conventional explanation. These represent 5% of the reports for 1989.

The monthly distribution of cases clearly shows a marked increase in the number of reports in the fall and early winter (Table 7). It can be said that October and November report numbers were about three times more than the yearly average. When the monthly numbers of reports are plotted with the geographical distribution (Table 8), it can be seen that only four provinces contributed to this wave. A significant increase in Saskatchewan reports occurred in October, tapering off over the rest of the year. Similarly, Manitoba had a slight increase in report numbers about this same time. Curiously, Ontario and Quebec had their increases in the following month. All other provinces did not show any significant change in report numbers during the year. It is perhaps reading too much into the data to suggest that the wave tended to move eastward over the two months. But it is curious that there were a number of reports from eastern Quebec and even New Brunswick at the beginning of 1990.

What can this set of analyses tell us about the UFO phenomenon? We can see that UFOs are still being reported with some frequency, and reports have not dried up as predicted by those who suggested that the phenomenon was just a fad. Reports appear to be evenly distributed across Canada except during local flaps which may form part of larger waves of sightings. The steady trickle of reports into private and government UFO-data-collection agencies shows that the public remains cognizant of unusual phenomena in the sky.

That the witnesses were reporting something real is indicated by the large number of reports that are found to have explanations after a moderate amount of investigation. The list of 1989 UFO cases contains at least a dozen probable bolides, as judged by the witnesses' descriptions. An example of this is the grouping of cases on the night of November 15, where widely-separated observers in Manitoba and Quebec each reported "fireworks" or a "fireball with sparks."

Over a dozen reports claimed witnesses who are capable observers, including RCMP, military personnel and air traffic controllers. A number of reports were from private and commercial pilots as well. This is not to imply that such witnesses are infallible; pilots often make good observations of bolides and recognize them as such, so while they cannot be considerable infallible, they cannot be constantly error-prone in their perceptions either.

As usual a number of cases were reports of stars or planets believed to be UFOs. This inability of some people to realize they are looking at common astronomical phenomena underlines the public's general lack of knowledge about science, a problem that is frustrating educators. (A recent Canadian study found that an embarrassing 50% of the sampled population did not know that the earth goes around the sun in a year; we also know of reports of many Americans who cannot find their country on a map of the world.) It is not surprising, then, to find such misidentifications in a sample of UFO reports—in fact, it would be surprising if misidentifications were not found.

About half of the reports were from only one witness. But the average number of witnesses per case was slightly more than two, confirming earlier studies by Jenny Randles and me. This is intuitively wrong, if we assume that while a lone witness may have difficulty identifying an object in the sky, a companion would be able to assist in the identification process and contribute his or her own experience toward the task. Yet it appears this is not the case. Often the misperception of a star as a UFO is reinforced by additional witnesses. Is this because the percentage of people in the population unable to identify a star is actually much higher than is thought? Alternatively, is group peer pressure or like-mindedness the answer?

Among the more remarkable cases were those alleging "burns" on witnesses caused by "radiation" as well as power outages blamed on the appearance of a UFO. Investigations of these cases have generally led to inconclusive results or to the realization that further study was necessary, although that is difficult with the limited resources volunteer ufologists possess.

UFO investigation in Canada is in a peculiar situation. While the Canadian military forces and government are not "officially" investigating UFO reports, the NRC does maintain a file of such information. It has the cooperation of the RCMP and the armed forces (in fact, the RCMP are actually directed in their operating manual to transmit reports to the NRC) but do not conduct follow-up investigation unless the report has a strong possibility of being related to a meteorite fall which could in turn lead to a scientifically valuable find. This has happened a number of times in the past, most spectacularly in the case of the Innisfree meteorite fall and find a number of years ago. But UFOs are strictly unwanted in meteoritic research and so they are normally filed away without action.

The paradox here is that some of the RCMP reports in the NRC files are quite extensive, with pages of witnesses' affidavits, comments by investigating officers and reams of official paperwork. The UFO cases are treated as criminal investigations and the witnesses are the "complainants." The catch is that not all RCMP reports appear in the NRC files. Two cases of this sort are 891025 at Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, and 891119 at Kenora.

In the first instance UFOROM learned about the case from a newspaper story in which an RCMP officer was quoted about his investigation. An NRC representative was interviewed for her comments. This case was not found in the NRC files. A more glaring instance is the Kenora case, investigated by UFOROM associate Roy Bauer and me. In addition to interviewing the witness, we made a point of speaking with local police, Ontario provincial police, and the RCMP. The RCMP informed us that their investigation was scheduled to begin soon and that they would submit their report to the NRC in line with usual operating procedure. No such report was found in the NRC files.

There are other indications that RCMP investigations are incomplete. Some cases in the files allude to "several other reports from the same area," suggesting that the RCMP are too overworked to deal with all the UFO reports they receive and do not bother to send the NRC information about all these cases. It seems likely, then, that only about one-half of all UFO sightings reported to the RCMP make it into the NRC files. Thus sighting numbers may be significantly higher than recorded.

Although UFOROM examined a number of abduction cases in 1989, these cases were not part of this study. Cooperating ufologists were specifically instructed that private abduction-research reports were not necessary for inclusion in the study.

There are various reasons for this, among them the fact that such cases are sometimes difficult to pinpoint in time and place. There is also the possibility that they may represent some other kind of phenomenon. Furthermore, data on such incidents are not always classifiable as easily as "ordinary" UFO experiences and could present problems if allowed in with other cases. (Of course this argument could be made for some categories of reports that were allowed into the study, so ultimately the decision to exclude abduction cases was arbitrary.)

Since this study was initiated, the names of new or additional ufologists were uncovered, too late to be contacted. In the case of Quebec ufologists, however, excellent rapport has been established and there are good prospects for cooperation and information-sharing. Canada poses a problem for investigators in a country larger than the United States but with a fraction of the population. For example, a "regional coordinator" for MUFON may be responsible for an area larger than Texas. But these problems are not insurmountable, given good communications networks, for example the computer bulletin-board service of Tom Mickus.

Finally, although efforts were made to solicit simple report data from all known active Canadian ufologists, only a handful actually supplied data for this study. Since ufology is largely a volunteer activity or hobby, it is not unusual to have such a low response. Family and employment pressures can both contribute to delays in correspondence. If the other groups in Canada had cooperated as expected, a few dozen more cases would have been added to the file. These numbers probably would not have been significant, considering the breakdown of data that would have applied to this absent subset of reports. As it stands, the data that were supplied were more than enough to show the shape and character of the 1989 Canadian UFO wave.

Acknowledgement: I wish to express my thanks to these individuals for their assistance on this project: Roy Bauer, Grant Cameron, Larry Fenwick, Tom Mickus, John Musgrave, Clive Navin, Michael Strainic and Bonnie Wheeler. ■

APPENDIX: LIST OF REPORTS ANALYZED IN THIS STUDY

890101	2115	Ontario, Lake Kashagawigamog	Cl	o	5		5m	4w	i	
890102	2140	Ontario, Gloucester	nl	r	7	y	4m	2w	p	
890116	1123	Quebec, Bovert Sagnenay	nl	r	7	w	2m	lw	i	
890117	2316	Alberta, Rocky Mountain House	nl	r	7		7s		p	crew of airliner
890123	2345	Quebec, Ville Legardeur	nl	r	7	y	2h	lw	p	
890125	0333	Ontario, Ottawa	nl	r	7	b	6s	lw	p	
890125	0334	Quebec, Lorraine	nl	r	7	b	4m	lw	p	
890125	2240	Quebec, Chicoutimi North	nd	r	7	y	1h	lw	i	black ring
890126	2055	Alberta, Sherwood Park	nl	r	7	r	7s	lw	p	
890127	0240	Alberta, Grand Center	nl	r	8			lw	i	RCMP officer
890127	2030	Quebec, Laterriere	nl	r	7	o	9s	lw	p	security gaurd
890130	2205	BC, Nanaimo	nl	r	7		lm	lw	p	
890130		BC, Lost Lake	nl	r	6			lw	i	
890211	0020	Alberta, Tofield	nd	r	7	g		2w	i	lime green disc
890212	2230	Ontario, Ajax	nl	o	5		2h	2w	p	4 nls seen
890213	2217	Nova Scotia, Sydney Mines	nd	r	7	r		2w	i	
890214	2244	BC, Pemberton	nl	r	7	r		2w	p	
890220	0005	Alberta, Edmonton	nl	r	7		1h	lw	i	photos taken
890223	0500	BC, Vancouver	nl	r	9		1h	lw	u	30 mins
890224	0030	Quebec, Lac St. Jean	nl	r	7	w	3m	lw	i	
890224	0032	Ontario, North Bay	nl	r	7	y	1h	lw	p	
890224	2315	Alberta, St. Albert	nl	r	7		lm	2w	p	30 secs
890304	1000	Alberta, Airdrie	dd	r	6			lw	i	
890304	2100	Saskatchewan, Highgate	nl	r	8	r	2s	2w	p	sketch
890312	0300	Quebec, Montreal	nd	r	7	s	5m	2w	i	silver/grey saucer,trail
890316	1630	BC, Kleaza Creek (Terrace)	dd	r	7	s	9s	lw	p	silver teardrop,15secs
890318	2230	Ontario, Cambridge	nl	r	6	w	2m	4w	i	children
890322		Ontario, Carp	C2	r	6	o		2w	i	arm burned,"radiation"
890401	0400	Nova Scotia, Halifax County	nd	r	7		9m	lw	i	15 min, stick w/lights
890402	0100	Ontario, Ottawa	nl	r	6	o	lm	lw	i	
890409	0045	Ontario, Carleton Place	nd	r	7	o	3m	4w	i	
890410	2000	Alberta, Calgary	nl	r	6	w	9s	lw	p	
890411	2059	Quebec, Grande Bay	nl	r	7	w	5m	2w	p	rainbow colours
890422	2320	Ontario, Oshawa	nl	r	7	w	9m	lw	i	
890423	0200	Quebec, Chateauguay	nl	r	6		1h	lw	i	sky lit up, 30 mins
890427	0330	BC, Porcher Island	nd	r	7	*	5m	2w	i	black object over mtns
890427	2030	BC, Prince George	nd	r	7	w	9m	7w	i	grey object under light
890508	2158	BC, Vancouver	nd	r	9	s	1h	2w	u	multiple observations
890526	0145	Alberta, Edmonton	nl	o	5				i	
890530	2115	Manitoba, Winnipeg	dd	r	8	s	7m	7w	u	silver "hot dog"
890531	2300	Ontario, Ottawa	Cl	r	7		lm	lw	i	close approach: car
8905		Manitoba, Strathclair	ev	r	8				u	holes in field;"badgers"
890604	2330	Newfoundland, Wesleyville	Cl	r	8	w	lm	6w	u	ind. witnesses
890611	0700	Newfoundland, St. John's	dd	r	8	*	3m	2w	u	airline crew; black obj.
890620	0030	Manitoba, Beaver Creek	Cl	r	8	r	2h	3w	u	overtop car; diamond
890623	0025	BC, Meldrum Creek (Williams Lake)	C2	r	8	o	9m	lw	u	sketch of "saturn"
890626	2300	Ontario, Ottawa	nl	r	7	y	9s	lw	i	
890629	1000	Manitoba, Green Ridge	dd	r	7	b	9s	lw	u	blue "balloon"; 20 secs
890629	2140	Quebec, Jonquiere	nl	r	7	w	2m	2w	i	
8906	2100	Ontario, Cambridge	nl	r	6	b	9m	4w	p	children
8906	2030	Ontario, Toronto	dd	o	5			lw	i	
890716	2100	Quebec, Pointe-aux-Trembles	dd	r	7	*	3s	2w	i	grey cylinder
890718	2200	Alberta, Bashaw	Cl	r	7	w		2w	i	children
890719	2100	Ontario, Cambridge	nl	r	8	y	lm	3w	p	
890725	0145	New Brunswick, Moncton	nd	r	7		9m	lw	i	
8907		Saskatchewan, Veregin	C2	o	5				i	power outage due to UFO?

890815	1245	Ontario, Ottawa	dd	r	4			9m			i	round saucer?
890823	2140	Ontario, Hamilton	nl	r	8			9s	lw	u		witness with DND
890826	1230	BC, near Williams Lake	Cl	r	6				2w	i		pilot and passenger
8908		Manitoba, Argyle	ev	o	5					i		rings in field
8908	0000	Manitoba, La Salle	nd	o	4				lw	i		cloud-like boomerang?
890903	0230	Ontario, Ottawa	nl	r	7	w	ls	lw	p			
890903	2130	Quebec, Trois Pistoles	dd	r	6	*	9s	3w	i			brown/peach colour?
890907	2130	Nova Scotia, Bramber	nl	r	7	r	1h	2w	p			ind. witnesses
890914	2000	Ontario, Ironbridge	nl	r	7		5m	3w	p			police const.
890915	0340	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nd	r	8	w	5s	lw	u			delta with lights?
890915	1015	Ontario, Barrhaven	dd	r	6		5m	9w	i			
890921	2200	BC, Richmond	nd	r	7	o		lw	p			fireman
890924	1400	BC, Campbell River	dd	r	7	*	5m	lw	i			grey flattened sphere
890927	1926	Newfoundland, St. John's	nl	r	4				p			airline crew;mtr. shwr
890930	2300	Quebec, Dollard-des-Ormeaux	Cl	r	7		5m	lw	i			
8909		Manitoba, Tyndall	nd	o	3			lw	i			five flying saucers
8909		Saskatchewan, Melfort	m	o	3				i			mutilation report
891001	2050	Ontario, Scarborough	nl	o	5				lw	i		
891005	1850	Quebec, Lac Vesa	nl	r	7		5m	lw	p			
891006	2330	Manitoba, Tyndall	nl	r	8	o	3s	lw	p			
891007	0430	Quebec, Jonquiere	nl	r	6		1h	4w	i			
891007	0500	Quebec, Arvida	nl	r	6		9m	lw	i			20 mins. duration
891009	1450	Manitoba, Winnipeg	dd	o	5	w		3w	i			boomerang, scared child
891009	2330	Manitoba, Oakbank	nl	r	6	y		lw	i			
891009	2315	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nd	r	8	o	2h	lw	p			multiple sightings
891010		BC, Dawson Creek	nl	o	5			2w	i			
891011	0020	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nd	o	5			lw	i			shimmering boomerang
891011	1900	Saskatchewan, Langenburg	nl	o	6	r	9m	7w	i			15 mins. duration?
891011		Saskatchewan, Langenburg	nl	o	4			lw	i			
891012	1905	Quebec, Dollard-des-Ormeaux	nl	r	7		4m	4w	i			
891012	2140	Alberta, Edmonton	C2	r	6	w		4w	i			circles in mud?
891013	1020	Saskatchewan, Langenburg	Cl	r	8	s	1m	lw	u			saucer over farmyard
891013	1919	Ontario, Toronto	nl	o	5		8m	2w	i			
891018	0745	Manitoba, Langruth	nd	r	7	w	9m	lw	p			25 mins. duration
891018	0800	Alberta, Sherwood Park	dd	r	7	s		lw	i			three saucers
891018		Saskatchewan, Langenburg	nl	o	6			2w	i			
891024	0050	BC, Duncan	Cl	r	7			3w	i			went over car
891024	0515	Quebec, Rouyn	nl	r	8	w		9w	u			airport workers
891024	0520	Ontario, North Bay	nl	r	8	w	1m	3w	u			military witnesses
891024		Saskatchewan, Langenburg	nl	o	5			lw	i			
891025	1945	Manitoba, Gilbert Plains	nl	o	6	r		lw	i			
891025		Saskatchewan, Rose Valley	m	o	3				i			mutilation report
891026	2045	Alberta, Calgary	nl	r	7		9m	lw	p			
891027		Saskatchewan, Langenburg	nl	o	4			lw	i			
891027	2000	Ontario, Ottawa	nl	r	7	r	1m	2w	p			30 secs.
891028	1845	Saskatchewan, Gerald	nl	r	7	r	9m	2w	p			20 mins
891029	1800	Saskatchewan, Gerald	nl	r	7	r		2w	i			
891030	1615	Ontario, Toronto	dd	o	5		9m	2w	i			
891031	2100	Ontario, Gormley	nl	o	5		1h	2w	i			

891101	1850	Saskatchewan, La Ronge	nl	r	7			lw	i	pilot & ?
891104	1730	NWT, Hall Beach	nd	r	8	r		4w	u	"teacup"
891105	1615	Ontario, Manotick	dd	r	5	g	9s	4w	i	"green water tower"
891111	0122	Saskatchewan, Fielding	nl	r	7	b	9m	2w	i	
891114	1800	Manitoba, Kola	Cl	r	8	r	lm	2w	u	"cherry lights on road"
891114	1830	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nl	o	4			lw	i	
891115	1900	Quebec, Chibougamou	nl	r	7		3h	lw	p	
891115	1900	Quebec, Val D'Or	nl	r	6	g	lh	i		"fireworks"
891115	2105	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nl	r	8	o	lm	9w	p	bolide?
891115	2100	Manitoba, Oakville	nd	r	8		2m	3w	p	
891119	0730	BC, Dawson Creek	dd	r	7		3s	lw	u	"swept back wings"
891119	2130	Manitoba, West Hawk Lake	nl	r	8			lw	p	
891119	2330	Ontario, Kenora	C2	r	9	r	9m	9w	u	power failure?
891120	0545	Quebec, Ste-Marie-de-Monnoir	C2	r	8	u		3w	u	circles swirled in field
891122	2215	Ontario, Lake Coughching	nl	r	7	g	9s	lw	p	
891122	2340	Saskatchewan, Fillmore	nl	r	7	y	3s	2w	p	
891123	1600	Quebec, St-Saveur-des-Monts	nl	r	8	w			i	jet scrambled? radar?
891123	1620	Alberta, Monarch	nl	r	7	w	2m	lw	p	
891123	1900	Ontario, Blindfold Lake	nd	o	5	r		lw	i	
891123	1915	Ontario, Longbow Lake	nl	o	5	r		lw	i	"ambulance on lake"
891123	1942	Ontario, Kenora	nl	o	5	b		lw	p	
891125	2318	Quebec, La Grande Riviere	nl	r	7			lw	p	
891125	2318	Quebec, Poste de la Baleine	nl	r	6			lw	i	
891125	2318	Quebec, Fort Chimo	nl	r	6				i	
891128	0000	Ontario, Kenora	nl	o	3	b	lh	lw	i	
891129	2135	Quebec, Latuque	nl	r	7	w	9m	2w	p	pilot & crew
891129	2115	Quebec, La Grande	nl	r	8	w		lw	u	pilot
891203	1845	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nl	r	8	g	3s	lw	p	bolide
891204	1645	Manitoba, Winnipeg	nl	r	8	w	2s	2w	p	bolide
891204	2245	Saskatchewan, Yarbo	nl	r	6	w	lm		i	
891206	0850	Saskatchewan, Whitefox	nl	r	7			4w	i	
891207	1820	Ontario, Kashabowie	nl	r	7	b	5m	2w	p	witness passed object
891214	1900	Sasakatchewan, Punnichy	C2	r	7			lw	i	car engine stopped
891218	2200	Alberta, Cold Lake	nl	r	8	b		2w	i	air traffic controllers
891229	2045	Alberta, Lavoy	nl	r	8		9m	2w	p	
891230	1600	Quebec, Chicoutimi	nl	r	7	g	3s	lw	p	

This list is arranged as follows:

year/month/day;
time;
province/location;
case type;
report (r) or other (o), such as newspaper clipping or account received through other means;
reliability code (scale of 1-9 where 1 is little more than a rumor and 9 is a well-investigated and documented case with credible witnesses);
color of object;
duration of sighting;
number of witnesses;
conclusion; and
short comment or keyword.

Through the secrecy barrier

A special report by V. D. Musinsky, Yaroslavl, U.S.S.R.

With increasing frequency UFOs are both appearing over central Russia and breaking through the secrecy barrier imposed by the Soviet military. On one occasion not long ago, an officer even phoned the newspaper *Rabochaya Tribuna* ("The Workers' Tribune") to report that UFOs were showing up often on the 47th kilometer of Yaroslavl highway. I happen to live in Yaroslavl, but it does not appear the aliens had come to visit me. We start counting kilometers from Moscow, and that's some distance from us.

The strange phenomena started on March 12 and have continued through the spring. On May 1 a television crew went out to shoot the UFOs—in vain, alas. Yet before that day, UFOs had been appearing nearly daily as hundreds of people watched them through binoculars. According to Maj. V. Stroynetsky, "First there were just luminous balls and disks. They were replaced by three new kinds. The first kind looks like a six-meter-long pineapple with characteristic scales on the outside. Another type looks like a triangular milk pack, rather large. The third type is a kind of overturned bowl about 12 to 15 meters in diameter with a pink 'dome' and two big dark windows." The major was unable to see other details because of the intense light around the UFOs.

"The UFOs fly very fast, can stop abruptly, and rush in another direction," he said. "When maneuvering, they shine brightly with beams and colored sparkles in front. I got the impression this has something to do with their motion. The more often and brighter they shine, the higher their speed."

Stroynetsky expressed the view that something living was inside the UFOs. He said there was no possibility that he was confusing the objects with aircraft; he had seen both at the same time more than once.

Other military accounts include the following:

At 9:40 p.m. on March 21 a UFO was seen at 2000 meters above Pereslavl-Zalessky. Although a special radar unit in the area claimed nothing showed up on its screen, an interceptor flown by Col. A. A. Semyonchenko was sent to find the object. At 10:05 the colonel saw the object ahead and slightly to the right. He tracked it on the aircraft radar as it flashed two white lights and changed speed and altitude. It did not respond to a radio challenge to identify itself. Responding to orders from the ground, the pilot turned steeply and at that point noticed something like the aurora borealis in the north and northwest. His attention focused back on the UFO, he flew 500 to 600 meters above the object, but he could see only the flashing lights and a vague shape.

That night, between eight o'clock and midnight, UFOs were seen over a wide area encompassing Pereslavl, Zalessky, Novoselye, Zagorsk, Yakovlevo, Ploshevo, Dubki, Kablukovo, Fryazino, and Kirzhatch. In what follows we attempt to reconstruct the chain of events. Here is a report from a watch post near Pereslavl-Zalessky:

"An object with red lights appeared from the azimuth 260–270 degrees at the distance of 40 kilometers at 21:19. Its speed was much greater than that of any plane. It was followed by a similar object but with white lights.

"21:35. The object with red lights disappeared. Azimuth 220 degrees, distance uncertain.

"21:40. The one with white lights comes and goes. Azimuth 270–250 degrees, distance 40–100 kilometers.

"21:50. The 'white' one reappears and hangs in the air. Azimuth 270 degrees.

"21:55. It disappears again. Azimuth distance 40 kilometers.

"21:57. Reappearance at the same place.

"21:59. The object is seen from a plane (azimuth 250 degrees, distance 30–50 kilometers) going with the course 350 degrees. The object makes a turn and approaches the plane at a very high speed. At the distance of about 20 kilometers from the plane the object disappears and reappears again behind and over the plane. The object was pursuing the arc course azimuth 270–270 degrees.

"22:01. The object hangs in the air. Azimuth 190–200 degrees. Distance 100 kilometers.

"22:03. The object is seen from a jet fighter, azimuth 240 degrees. When approached by the latter, the object disappears.

"22:05. The object reappears. Azimuth 190–200 degrees. Hangs for a couple of minutes and finally disappears."

This looks like the most detailed, precise, and documented report in the history of Soviet ufology. The commanding officers of several antiaircraft defense units around Moscow have gathered more than 100 visual reports from their subordinates to complete the picture.

One of these reports is from senior radio operator Sgt. N. Fedorovich, who says, "At 22:05 I ran out and

saw two lights in the sky close to each other. They were blinking constantly with very intense light. In about 20 seconds the object entered the clouds. The lights were not seen then, but the space around the object was floodlit. The object was moving very quickly without any sound."

Capt. V. Birin provides this account: "The object was shaped like a saucer with two bright lights on the edges. The diameter was about 100 to 200 meters. There was dim illumination between the lights looking like portholes. After the object 'left for Moscow' at 23:30, the space behind it was lit with red light. Hanging in the air, the object almost completely switched off the lights."

Capt. V. Ivchenko: "It was impossible to define the shape of the object, but I could clearly see two regularly blinking lights. Their light reminded me of a photo flash. The UFO was moving like a snake, with a curved trajectory from east to west approaching our base."

Capt. N. Filatov: "Most probably the object was turning around its axis horizontally, for the sources of light were merging together now and then. The size of the lights and the object's intensity were much higher than those of our patrolling planes. The lights were blinking every two or three seconds. The object was close to Zagorsk. Its trajectory was snakelike."

Capt. I. Lapin: "About 22:00 hours the light disappeared for five minutes. Then there was intense light with the whole of the clouds lit. After that the object reappeared. It was followed by two planes with red signal lights. It headed for Moscow, leaving behind not very bright red light in the clouds."

All of these reports reached the chief of the antiaircraft defense headquarters, Gen.-Col. I. Maltsev, who refused to speculate on the identity of the object or the meaning of its appearance. He said only that the UFO was a disc between 100 and 200 meters in diameter with two blinking lights. When it was flying horizontally, the line of lights was parallel to the horizon; when it was pursuing a vertical course, the lines of its lights was vertical. It was turning around its axis and its course was "snakelike." The approximate altitude was between 1000 and 7000 meters. It was tracked on Col. Semyonchenko's radar and on all ground-based radar screens but one.

So the ufologists may celebrate a victory. This is the first time in the Soviet Union that the military has openly and convincingly acknowledged the existence of "flying saucers," through the testimony of highly qualified specialists equipped with sensitive tracking instruments. The events near Yaroslavl highway mock the conventional wisdom here that UFOs are nothing but conventional atmospheric phenomena—a theory until recently supported by the official science and ideology. ■

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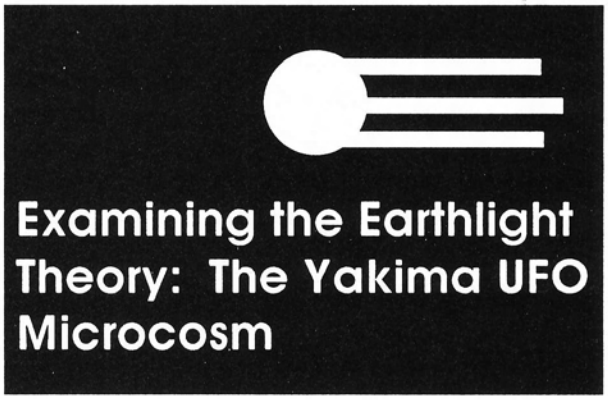

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UFO studies in the scientific literature

by I. Scott

■■ I. Scott, Ph.D., is a physiologist at the Ohio State University Medical School.

According to a widespread misconception, scientists reject the study of UFOs. If my experience is any guide, this is not true. I have published five articles in the peer-reviewed scientific literature in recent years. Summaries of them follow:

1. "Survey of Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Reports in Delaware County, Ohio," *Ohio Journal of Science* 87, no.1 (1987): 24–26. Of 62 people questioned, 19 (31%) reported possible UFO sightings of their own. Seventeen percent reported knowing someone who claimed to have made an observation. Thirty-two individual sightings were described. Twenty-two were considered category 3 observations; in other words, there was sufficient information so that an identification as a known phenomenon should have been possible, but the characteristics of the phenomenon did not match those of known phenomena.

I have reported several of these observations previously ("UFO Activity over Ohio," *MUFON UFO Journal,* no.217, May 1986, pp.4–5). Others included these:

(a) A couple's observation of a round, orange, glowing object, four times the apparent diameter of the full moon. They saw the object and the full moon at the same time (August 26, 1980, at around 10:00 p.m.). They watched it for around one hour as they drove home, and as they occasionally looked out of their house windows.

(b) A witness, trained in aircraft identification (with experience working on experimental aircraft), observed a silver-colored, 30-foot-in-diameter metallic disk with intensely lighted (white) round portholes. The object was 300 feet from his house. The lights in the house went out during the time the object was near. He viewed it for around seven minutes. Several of his relatives recalled that the grass appeared crushed in the spot where it came down. The incident occurred around dusk one spring day in 1967 or 1968.

(c) In early June 1955 the parents of the man in the case just cited experienced a close encounter with a white disk-shaped, lighted object, emitting a slight whirring sound as it hovered near their house.

(d) Another couple observed a blimp-shaped object whose outside surface glowed green. Its apparent diameter was approximately six times that of the full moon and they believed it was 600 feet away. They watched it from their bedroom window for around 15 minutes and then went back to bed. The observation took place between 1:00 and 3:00 a.m. and the object was in the vicinity of three large high-tension power lines. The following day a newspaper article reported that police had received about six calls concerning a soundless object sighted nearby. A police officer who viewed it described it as a "blimp with flashing red lights." When I called him, the police officer said the object had been identified as the Goodyear blimp. Although I asked him several times, he would not say how he knew that it was the Goodyear blimp. He also remarked that it was flying at night, during a storm, and near a power substation. The couple had saved the newspaper article, but not the date of the observation. This observation is still under investigation for several reasons. One, Goodyear blimps do not fly at night; see Don Schmitt, "The Belleville Sightings: Part One," *IUR* 12 (November/December 1987): 4, 6. For another, it would be extremely hazardous to fly near the numerous, tall, high-tension power lines in that area after dark. The witnesses in the house both saw the entire surface of the object glowing green with no writing on it and no other lights, the policeman reported an atypical lighting pattern for a blimp, and none of the witnesses heard sounds emanating from the object.

(e) Around 1976 a woman saw a white, almond- or eye-shaped object moving silently. She screamed and hid under her covers. The next morning she searched for other witnesses. A neighbor, an aeronautical engineer, reported that that night he had observed "what I thought was a plane go over the woods, except its lights weren't like plane lights and it didn't make a sound. It hovered over the woods and then descended behind them giving off a glowing light. It ascended again and hovered for a few minutes. I got really scared . . . The bottom part seemed to be rotating while the top was stationary . . . the movements . . . were crisp, but quiet . . . ." He said that it moved in straight lines and right angles as he watched it for five minutes. It was two to three times the apparent diameter of the full moon. He did not examine the area where it came down for ground traces.

(f) At six o'clock on a September morning in 1970, an electrical worker observed the approach of a silent,

slow-moving, bright orange object somewhat larger than the apparent diameter of a full moon. It stopped 400 or 500 yards away at 300 feet altitude. After five minutes it shot off at a rapid rate of speed. At this time, on a still morning, the wind suddenly picked up to around 20–30 mph and died as abruptly. The man's hunting companion, who had not seen the object, stepped out of a thicket and remarked on the sudden change in wind velocity.

(g) Another witness—fire chief, pilot, and communications technician—observed two stationary, dome-shaped objects for about four minutes. The incident occurred at 7:00 a.m. on a day in June 1966. The objects were each about $1^1/_2$ times the apparent diameter of the full moon, and both reflected sunlight.

In this study, the most detailed accounts provided the best descriptions of a truly unusual phenomenon. The paper concluded that although media may influence the public acceptance of UFO phenomena, perhaps the increased acceptance also occurs because some people believe themselves or close acquaintances to have made valid observations of puzzling aerial objects.

2. "Investigation of a Sound Heard over a Wide Area," *Ohio Journal of Science* 87, no.2 (1987): 11, considers an unexplained tremor experienced on October 11, 1973, over a ten-state area. This may have been the most widespread sound ever recorded, with the exception of the Krakatoa explosion. I investigated the sound using local newspapers, earthquake information, and the Freedom of Information Act. The reported time of the tremor varied from between 8:41 and 9:00 p.m., and it was heard in an area stretching from Indiana through Maryland and Kentucky to Pennsylvania. A five-second burst of high-frequency sound was recorded on a Pennsylvania seismograph at 8:53. The sound and vibrations could not be explained by earthquake tremors, nor did the widespread pattern match that of a sonic boom. In comparison, the sonic boom of an SR-71 aircraft (October 21, 1973) covered a much smaller area and was reported as such. No meteor fall was reported. No aircraft that would account for the boom were sighted. Officials at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base reportedly investigated the origin of the sound; however, an extensive FOIA search turned up no information about the investigation. The sound's origin has not been explained.

Additional comments: This may have been the most widely experienced event ever to have been associated with UFO phenomena. Hard evidence (seismograph recordings) exists. There were several other widespread booms reported that night, and a sudden increase in UFO reports coincided with the sound. For example, approximately simultaneous with the sound was the Pascagoula, Mississippi, abduction case, as well as numerous reports of low-flying objects near Dayton, Ohio. Although these early reports were not generally published until several days later, police stations in many areas were suddenly inundated with UFO reports around the time the sound was heard. This increase in UFO reports took place, not only across many areas of the United States (especially the eastern half), but events were recorded in other countries. Many well-investigated events were reported during this time period: for example, the Coyne UFO/helicopter encounter over Mansfield, Ohio. In some cases fires and humanoids were reported.

3. "Examination of Social and Environmental Factors in Relation to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena," American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), *National Meeting Abstracts,* no.153 (1987), related UFO phenomena to social, economic, and environmental factors. It used correlation and regression procedures such as curve-fitting and chi-square tests. One unique aspect of the UFO phenomenon is the wave, or an unexplained increase in the frequency of sighting reports over a certain period of time. Among the theories advanced to explain these waves are "war nerves"; publicity or media exposure; societal stress; hysterical contagion; physical factors such as electromagnetic activity, geological faults, and earthquake lights; and fixed intervals such as conjunctions with the relative positions of Mars or Venus. But most of these hypothesized correlations have failed. UFO data used in the study included those on worldwide waves reported in the UFO literature, as well as those collected at Wright-Patterson AFB between 1947 and 1969, when the Air Force's public UFO project was functioning. I also drew on a variety of other sources, such as the U.S. Bureau of the Census' *Statistical Abstracts of the United States.*

I found significant relationships between UFO activity and (a) sunspot activity ($P<.01$), (b) power failures ($P<.02$), and (c) Israeli military activity ($P<.001$). Nonsignificant relationships included war nerves, studied as years of American wars and as years of American nuclear-bomb testing; societal stress, hysterical contagion, and other psychological factors studied as (a) frequency of visits to American physicians, (b) yearly number of American murder victims, (c) yearly number of American murder victims by unusual causes, (d) yearly number of American patent applications, (e) SAT scores, and (f) physical relationships studied as yearly earthquake activity.

Additional comments: Wave phenomena were used rather than continuous data because of the possible confounding effects of different collection agencies and differences in investigative techniques over the years. I thought it might be possible to investigate abductions in this manner; for example, if some people are abducted, perhaps not all are returned. Thus, I wanted to examine whether UFO waves were associated with increases in missing-person reports. I discovered, however, that no central agency collects information about missing persons. I examined the relationship with Israeli military activity because of a friend's claim that UFO activity increases when Israel is at war. (She had speculated that "signs" and fighting were associated with biblical prophecies about the end time.) Although this significant

relationship does not prove or disprove this or any other idea, it suggests that relationships between such factors as military and solar activity could merit additional examination. Of the three significant relationships studied, two were natural. These relationships indicate that electrical phenomena, or the types of physical forces associated with sunspot activity, may be involved in some portion of UFO events.

4. "Description of an Aerial Anomaly Viewed over Columbus, Ohio," *Ohio Journal of Science* 88, no.2 (1988): 23, reported a 20-minute daytime sighting made on February 23, 1984, at 4:00 p.m. by five witnesses (all Ph.D.s) of what first appeared to be an upside-down, ice-cream-cone-shaped object that was associated with a fog. It changed its appearance about every 60 seconds, at one point appearing rectangular. It was viewed heading toward Port Columbus Airport, but neither visual nor radar searches there located it.

5. "Photogrammetric Analysis of a Photograph of an Aerial Anomaly," AAAS, *National Meeting Abstracts,* no.154 (1988), dealt with an analysis of a photograph taken on July 13, 1968, during an observation described in "Fear and Ambiguity in Massachusetts," *IUR* 13 (July/August 1988): 14–17. When the photograph was taken, the two witnesses (my sister and I) watched an object lighted with blinking squares. At the time of the photograph, the separate squares were beyond individual visual resolution. Thus we observed a moving point source of light. Nonetheless the photograph (on Polaroid 3000 ASA black-and-white film) showed two light emission sources. We concluded that the object had a blinking light in the spectral frequency range between 230 and 400 nm because this camera was sensitive to 230 nm into the ultraviolet spectrum.

Serious study of the UFO phenomenon has been rejected by government funding agencies, not by scientists. As I was doing my work, several scientists gave me helpful suggestions that aided my investigation. It ought to be beneficial for ufologists to enlist the aid of interested scientists, because increased scientific publication could lead to an increased acceptance of ufology's legitimacy.

If you are interested in reprints of these articles, send stamped, self-addressed envelopes to I. Scott, 2167 Graves Hall, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210. ■

New UFO video slated for release

The Center for UFO Studies is advising White Production Archives, Inc., a video programming company and film archive in Evanston, Illinois, in the production of a quarterly UFO video magazine, *UFOs Today*. The first installment, scheduled for release to video retail stores this fall, will focus on abduction cases.

Further information will be announced in *IUR* as the series progresses. ■

THE UFO PHENOMENON IN THE 1990S

A conference cosponsored by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies and the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Inc., in connection with the publication of *The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 1: UFOs in the 1980s*, by Jerome Clark.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1990
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ABDUCTIONS and close encounters; startling revelations about official cover-ups, secret projects and suppressed UFO cases; spectacular physical-trace reports; films, videos and photographs; mass sightings of enormous flying wings; the collision of new and old theories about the phenomenon; the mystery of the MJ-12 briefing document; hoaxes that shook all of ufology — the 1980s were a period of remarkable activity, confusion, controversy, and clarification. The 1990s offer the promise of more extraordinary developments — and possibly even the answers to ufology's major questions: What are UFOs? What is the significance of the phenomenon for humanity? And how much does the United States government know?

SPEAKERS

Thomas E. Bullard, Ph.D.
Jerome Clark
George M. Eberhart
Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.
Budd Hopkins
David M. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D.
J. Gordon Melton, Ph.D.
Mark Rodeghier
John Saliba, Ph.D.
Don Schmitt

For further information, or to pre-register, write the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Inc., Box 91611, Santa Barbara, California 93190-1611, or call 805/967-2669. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 1: UFOs in the 1980s is the definitive account of one of the most exciting decades in the history of ufology. Over 130,000 words long, it chronicles all the important cases, theories, claims, conflicts, debates, hoaxes, personalities, publications, and organizations. Author Jerome Clark, the former editor of *Fate*, currently editor of *International UFO Reporter* and vice president of CUFOS, is a leading authority on the UFO phenomenon. Two more volumes in the *Encyclopedia* series are in preparation. *Volume 1* is now available for $65 postpaid from Omnigraphics, Inc., Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

Letters

Gulf Breeze: charges and stakes

To the editor:

The importance of the Walters case—as opposed to other Gulf Breeze, Florida, UFO sightings—cannot be overestimated. If the photographs are genuine, they are by any standard our most important photographic evidence yet of the physical existence of UFOs. If the photographs are a hoax and Ed, his wife, daughter and son are lying—and if one is lying, they all are—this fact is almost of equal importance.

It means that an apparently normal, middle-class family can lie at will, consistently, with emotion. It means that one man is able to trick three skeptical, independent "lie-detection" experts and fool a professional psychologist, outwitting his standard battery of tests. It means that one man using various cameras can produce fake photographs authentic enough to outwit the most careful photo analysts. It means that some form of collective hysteria can lead witnesses to invent highly specific corroborating descriptions of UFOs—or willingly participate in large numbers in a widespread hoax. It means that virtually every scientific tool we, as investigators, have learned to use in our work can be effectively subverted: professionally administered psychological tests, interviews, polygraphs, voice-stress analysis, computer-aided photographic analysis, soil-testing and so on.

Most important, society's generally-held view of the ethical behavior of children, men, women and, in fact, an entire community can be horribly wrong. On a personal level it means that the psychological insights of experienced investigators such as Bruce Maccabee and me are much less reliable than we had supposed, despite our years of observation and work with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of UFO witnesses.

We have always assumed that hoaxes are possible but that close scrutiny and objective, scientific investigation will eventually detect them. We have never believed that all of our investigative tools and our various outside, noninvolved consultants would simultaneously fail us. If they have all simultaneously failed in the Walters family case, then the separation of truth from hoax in any future case is infinitely more difficult than anyone had suspected.

If Laura, Dan, Frances, and Ed Walters have conspired in a massive fraud of virtually criminal dimensions, deceiving friends, neighbors and the public alike, they have committed a heinous act. If the parents in this case have somehow coerced their young daughter and son to cooperate in this plot, one wonders if this family should be allowed to remain together; perhaps a guardian should be appointed for the two children. The stakes in this case are this high.

We also know as a matter of fact that false evidence against the Walters family has been manufactured and planted: the so-called Chrysler Building UFO photo. Strong evidence also supports the idea that the recently discovered UFO model might be another example of fraudulent evidence deliberately planted. If the young man who claims the Walters photos are a massive hoax is himself lying, then his behavior is despicable and perhaps criminal, since this testimony was evidently given to the police. Surely enormous damages for slander could be obtainable by the Walters family, should the Walterses choose to sue. These are, again, the moral and legal stakes in this case.

But the issue of two opposing versions of the truth can be easily settled. The young man who has made such morally devastating charges against the Walters family has spelled out the techniques by which the various hoaxes were perpetrated, so they can easily be replicated. An easy scientific test of the truth is available in a few hours, and so at least some of the following must be done immediately:

(1) Using the model that has been recovered and the same cameras purportedly used in the hoax, the young man must duplicate his photos, persuasively demonstrating how they were made.

(2) Using a trampoline of the same diameter as the circle of dead grass in the schoolyard, the grass must be killed by stomping on it in the way Ed Walters allegedly accomplished this feat. The grass, of course, must conform to the same condition as in the earlier incident.

(3) Using Ed Walters's original polaroid photo, the young man must satisfactorily duplicate the "blue beam" photo with the aid of a torn section of the photo covering, in the same way he states Walters accomplished this illusion.

(4) The young man must submit to a polygraph test and, ideally, to a voice-stress analysis, as Walters has on four occasions.

(5) Again, ideally, the young man should submit to the same battery of psychological tests and interviews that Walters underwent. They should be administered by a wholly neutral psychologist.

These five tests are, of course, selective and easily carried out. They are modest in the light of the high stakes involved and the damaging nature of the young man's charges—especially when one remembers that a third witness has attacked the young man's truthfulness. His refusal to carry out at least a majority of these simple requests should ipso facto be considered a self-repudiation of his original charges and a vindication of Ed, Frances, Laura, and Dan Walters. When these tests are

made—and one cannot imagine that they will not be—any consistent failures will be considered a repudiation of the young man's truthfulness and a vindication of Ed, Frances, Laura, and Dan Walters. Should the tests be consistently passed by the young man, they should be considered a repudiation of Ed, Frances, Laura, and Dan Walters.

I naturally believe that these eminently fair proposals for the determination of the truth are supported by CUFOS and the Mutual UFO Network, organizations with which I have worked for many years, as well as by the Walters family and the family of the young man who made the original charges. To allay any fears on either side, I also propose that the principals—the young man, his parents and the Walters family—all sign a binding agreement in advance not to sue for damages, whatever the outcome.

We await the results, and until then nothing can be asserted with assurance on either side. Science, personal honesty and objective truth demand this course of action.

Budd Hopkins
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

To the editor:

In *Gulf Breeze Double Exposed,* recently published by CUFOS, Zan Overall concludes that a party photo taken in 1986 (aka the "ghost/demon" photo) is and can only be a double exposure.

Without taking the space to address the outrageous distortions within the CUFOS report, I demand a simple test: take a package of 108 film and try to make a ghost/demon image on the third photographic plate without leaving the room to set up a double exposure. In other words, do what the witnesses say happened. Take three photos in a row, each with a flash, and have the third photo show a ghost/demon. Do not use glass for a reflection. Remember, you are trying to demonstrate a double exposure.

It is not asking too much to demand such a test if we are to believe the double-exposure theory. When the test fails, in order to support the double-exposure theory CUFOS must conclude that the film pack must have been tampered with and the third photo-plate pre-exposed and then repacked to be used later to take three photos in a row.

Again, another simple test should have been done: why didn't CUFOS personnel invest the $10.00 for a package of 108 film, open it up and see for themselves how the film plates are tied together, making—according to Lilli Seymour of the Polaroid Resource Center, Atlanta—an exposure of the third (or any but the first) film plate extremely difficult, if not impossible? Bruce Maccabee demonstrated the above test at the recent MUFON symposium. He also demonstrated how an operational error with the 20-year-old camera can easily create smeared, fuzzy images in a single exposure.

These two simple tests would have saved CUFOS the cost of printing the Overall monograph and shown that the ghost/demon issue is a debunking distraction. Debunkers make grand conclusions without testing the obvious. I find it odd that CUFOS would sign its name to a report without testing the conclusion. I look forward to a report on such testing.

Ed Walters
Gulf Breeze, Florida

Where Vallee went right

To the editor:

When I first saw the cover of the January/February issue of *IUR,* with bold type declaring "Where Vallee went wrong," I prepared myself for a typical diatribe against one of the few ufologists to address—and to continue to address—some of the most significant, albeit unpopular, aspects of the UFO phenomenon and of ufology. Instead, I read a detailed and thought-provoking examination of Vallee's approach and his newest book, *Confrontations.*

Nonetheless I must take serious exception to some of the statements Jerome Clark makes in his extended review ("The Thickets of Magonia"). At the risk of sounding like a Vallee groupie, I must ask: Mr. Clark, how could you? To state that *Invisible College* and *Messengers of Deception*—surely two of the most penetrating, sensitive, perhaps the only books to delve into the subtle inner workings of the phenomenon and the generic UFO movement—"should never have been written or published" is absurd. It's tantamount to telling fellow ufologists, "Well, guys, there may be lotsa problems with cults, intelligence infiltration and long-standing alien manipulation in this field, but darn it, we've got other [UFO] fish to fry. Here's a little rug to shove that nastiness under." Meanwhile, UFO cults, intelligence operations and possible "alien" manipulations continue to befoul the field and lead everyone astray in the interests of mysterious but powerful agendas.

There's more that I could say regarding the extraterrestrial hypothesis, pro and con, and Vallee's insight into the historical and mythological roots of the UFO, but this letter is simply to put *UFO Magazine* on record as defending Vallee's approach and hypotheses and to protest what appears to be a unilateral assault on this valuable and respected author.

Vicki Cooper
Editor and co-publisher, UFO
Los Angeles, California

Machinelike sounds

To the editor:

Greg Long's interesting "Machinelike Underground Sounds and UFO Phenomena" (*IUR,* September/October 1989) reminded me of a personal experience. In late 1973, just prior to a traumatic UFO sighting (described in my book *Congratulations! The UFO Reality*), I heard an odd "generator" sound near my house in Ipswich, Massachusetts. I also saw lights in the yard at approximately the same time.

I have heard this sound several times since then. Once it seemed to come from the corridor of a hotel late at night, sounding almost like a garbage machine or heavy-duty vacuum cleaner. I felt terror when I heard it—a visceral fear like a child's fear of the dark. I was unable to sleep and left the hotel early in the morning, choosing to wait for my morning flight in the airport.

I know that my reaction to the sound was unusual, but I cannot explain why I was so badly frightened. Perhaps my association of the sound with my 1973 sighting is deeply embedded in my unconscious.

Eugenia Macer-Story
New York, New York

MJ-12: signal or noise?

To the editor:

In their response to my and John F. Fischer's article "The Crashed-Saucer Forgeries" (*IUR,* March/April 1990), Stanton T. Friedman and William L. Moore resort to misrepresentation and distortion. Let me cite several examples.

While it is true that I am a skeptic concerning supposed extraterrestrial visitations—that is, I am unconvinced that any have occurred—I do not assert that they definitely have not taken place. Anyone who says otherwise is either mistaken or deliberately misstating my position.

Moore's criticisms of my "CSICOP connections" and the fact that I have "published books with Prometheus, the publishing house headed by CSICOP chairman Paul Kurtz," is revealing. His obvious contempt for CSICOP—a prestigious organization Moore could learn something from—leads him to attempt to establish my supposed guilt by association, an attack in the tradition of Joseph McCarthy.

My skepticism about extraterrestrial visitations in general and about Roswell in particular did not serve as a basis—as Moore alleges unnamed sources claim—for concluding that "therefore the MJ-12 documents must be forgeries." We were not investigating the Roswell incident, as Moore and Friedman repeatedly suggest, and in fact our report demonstrated that the documents themselves provided an objective basis for our determination that they are fakes.

Besides trying to muddle the waters about "different formats," Friedman and Moore ignore the fact that the Truman-Forrestal "memorandum" has a hybrid memo-letter format. I believe a child could have understood the point we made in our report. And as to the placement of the signature, we do not merely "claim" to have studied hundreds of genuine Truman signatures; we actually studied them. We even shared our findings on this point with Friedman months ago. If our observation has little merit, why has Friedman not produced a few examples that discredit it?

We never claimed that because we did not find a feature it therefore could not exist. We were establishing the relative rarity of features. If an extensive search through genuine documents failed to turn up a single example of a significant feature of an MJ-12 document, and if there were additional, demonstrably rare features, the evidence against authenticity would be multiplied. That is, if a search of a thousand documents failed to turn up one instance of either of (say) two features, then the odds would seem to be better than a thousand to one times a thousand to one—i.e., more than a million to one—against authenticity.

Friedman asks, "On what grounds do [Nickell and Fischer] assert that the date on the briefing cover '18 November, 1952' should have been written '18 November 1952' and that it contains an anomalous comma?" The answer is childishly simple: any style manual that shows how to write dates in military fashion.

As to the forger's profile, we were not "playing amateur psychiatrists," as Friedman asserts. The psychoanalytic portions of the profile were taken from authoritative texts, and we had a distinguished psychologist (Prof. Robert A. Baker, cited in our acknowledgements) review the text prior to publication.

I remain confident of our findings, namely that the MJ-12 documents are the products of an inept forger who fits the basic profile we provided.

Joe Nickell, Ph.D.
West Liberty, Kentucky

To the editor:

The March/April issue of *IUR* was an excellent piece of work. I was familiar with Nickell from his investigation of perhaps the greatest man-made anomaly of all time, the Sacred Shroud. His book, *Inquest on the Shroud of Turin,* was years ahead of its time in challenging the validity of the shroud and unlocking its secrets. Where the MJ-12 affair is concerned, however, his investigation, when placed alongside the position statements of Fried-

man and Moore, was more useful in illuminating the differences between the two camps than in deciphering the document in question. What we have here is a failure to communicate, or a basic signal-to-noise ratio, as follows:

Signal: In weighing evidence on the authenticity of the MJ-12 document, the scientific approach can only be to look for trademarks of forgeries as opposed to citing reasons why the MJ-12 document could be the exception to the rule.

Noise: An examination of the MJ-12 documents does not have to include an assessment of the Roswell incident. Granted, Nickell and Fischer are skeptical of Roswell, but this does not invalidate their work as investigators of MJ-12.

Signal: The incorrect "greeting" and placement of the Truman signature on the MJ-12 memo.

Noise: Nickell and Fischer's assumption that Moore was hiding something when he censored portions of the MJ-12 document, when he was merely screening out the UFO nuts, plus their further assumption that Moore's letterhead was the caricature of a paste-up artist.

Signal: The incorrect method of dating, punctuation and numbering on the MJ-12 briefing paper and memo.

Noise: Character assassination based on sketchy personality career evaluations. Also the implied rift between Friedman and Moore based on incorrect information and innuendo.

Essentially, Nickell and Fischer's salient points got drowned in a shoddy attempt to paint Moore as a forger. They look at Moore's track record and see a pattern of sensationalism, while I look at the same track record and see a writer forced by the genuine article (Roswell) to abandon sensationalism (the Philadelphia experiment) and become a serious UFO researcher, as each of his succeeding follow-up papers on Roswell attests.

With regard to the MJ-12 document itself, what struck me was not the inclusion of the well-known Roswell incident or the conveniently dead 12 men who made up the Majestic group but the citation of the purported El Indio, Mexico, crash.

This could be of considerable importance, pro or con. Pro, in that evidence for it would help verify MJ-12 (see Kevin D. Randle's *UFO Casebook*). Con, in that the "forger" could be a major proponent of this crashed-saucer case and is thus using the MJ-12 document as a means of smoking out confirmation of a saucer tale for which he has a particular fondness. If it's the work of a government agency, then it could have been plucked from any number of sources and be nothing but more noise.

Vincent C. Ellis
Marlton, New Jersey

To the editor:

In your note following "A Forum on MJ-12" (*IUR,* May/June 1990) you refer to the question of who gave Timothy Good his copy of the MJ-12 document. I may be able to shed some light on this.

During a break in the 1989 MUFON conference, I asked Good some questions. My curiosity had been roused after reading, on p. 544 of his *Above Top Secret,* that the document "was made available to me unofficially early in 1987 prior to release in the United States."

Good stated that he did not get his copy from Bill Moore or his associates but from a "CIA source." He further asserted that he received it while he was in England, and it came in the form of a "Xerox copy." This information comes from my notes on that conversation. I did not make a note of whether he specified if the copies were personally delivered or if they came in the mail. Paul Smith was present at this confirmation, and I believe he could confirm it.

Interestingly, Paul was once approached by a woman who claimed to have seen the MJ-12 document in the 1950s while she was working as a secretary for the FBI. As I understand it, Paul did not consider this a credible story and did not pursue it beyond some initial inquiry.

John Miller, M.D.
San Pedro, California

To the editor:

I discern a certain emerging picture in regard to the MJ-12 documents and controversy. There seems to be a growing consensus that the Truman-Forrestal memo is a forgery. On the other hand, the Cutler-Twining memo gives every indication of being an authentic document, despite the unusual circumstances surrounding its discovery at the National Archives. What then of the Eisenhower briefing document (EBD) and how can these documents be reconciled?

If the Truman-Forrestal memo is indeed a forgery and is presented as an appendix of the EBD, then the authenticity of the EBD itself is in question. It is my view that both are official disinformation documents, but documents that nevertheless contain much true information concerning the Roswell crash and aftermath. If Nickell and Fischer believe that an individual (presumably Moore) forged the documents, they should ask themselves how Timothy Good obtained a copy of the Eisenhower and Truman documents from a CIA source in Britain. Do they believe that Good was lying? Or do they think that Moore himself was the CIA source? For this and a number of other reasons, a conclusion that the documents were forged by a single individual outside government is ludicrous.

As to the Cutler-Twining memo, if it is indeed

proven to be genuine, what conclusions can be drawn? One would have to conclude that MJ-12 existed in 1954 but might speculate that it may not have existed under that name in 1947 or anytime prior to 1954. Certainly, a group like MJ-12 would have had to exist at or prior to 1947 but may not have been designated as such at that time. One might also speculate that MJ-12 may not stand for Majestic-12 at all but for another designation, such as Majority-12, to cite one possibility.

Why would anyone in the government want to release both authentic and fake documents to researchers? In my opinion the government wants the general facts about Roswell and MJ-12 to become known to the public as part of a gradual release of information but also desires to withhold some facts considered too sensitive for release at this time. Whatever the truth of the matter, it will be most interesting to see how this controversy plays out over time.

Dan Pinchas
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Remarkable military encounter in Belgium

Numerous reports of a huge triangular UFO in Belgium since November 1989 have put the country's Air Force on alert. Two supersonic F-16 interceptors were scrambled on three occasions; the first two were false alarms, but on March 30, 1990, the pilots found themselves confronted with a genuine unknown.

It now appears that the Belgian government has released all the information on this case, which also involves ground and airborne radar confirmation, and is cooperating with a civilian UFO group, the Société Belge d'Étude des Phénomènes Spatiaux (SOBEPS)—perhaps the first time any government has shared UFO data so openly.

A recent issue of the French weekly magazine, *Paris-Match,* contained a lengthy summary of the case. Robert J. Durant has provided CUFOS with a full translation, from which we reprint the following excerpt:

"On the night of March 30th, one of the callers reporting a UFO was a Captain of the national police at Pinson, and [Belgian Air Force] Headquarters decided to make a serious effort to verify the reports. In addition to the visual sightings, two radar installations also saw the UFO. One radar is at Glons, southeast of Brussels, which is part of the NATO defense group, and one at Semmerzake, west of the Capitol, which controls the military and civilian traffic of the entire Belgian territory. The range of the two radars is 300 kilometers, which is more than enough to cover the area where the reports took place. . . . Headquarters determined to do some very precise studies during the next 55 minutes to eliminate the possibility of prosaic explanations for the radar images. Excellent atmospheric conditions prevailed, and there was no possibility of false echoes due to temperature inversons.

". . . at 0005 hours the order was given to the F-16s to take off and to find the intruder. The lead pilot concentrated on his radar screen, which at night is his best organ of vision. The F-16 is equipped with very sophisticated equipment, including chase radar, which is not fixed directly ahead of the airplane, but makes a wide search in an arc of 90 degrees left and right of the nose. . . .

"Suddenly the two fighters spotted the intruder on their radar screens, appearing like a little bee dancing on the scope. Using their joy sticks like a video game, the pilots ordered the onboard computers to pursue the target. As soon as lock-on was achieved, the target appeared on the screen as a diamond shape, telling the pilots that from that moment on, the F-16s would remain tracking the object automatically. . . .

"[Before the radar had locked on for six seconds] the object had speeded up from an initial velocity of 280 kph to 1,800 kph, while descending from 3,000 meters to 1,700 meters . . . in one second! This fantastic acceleration corresponds to 40 Gs. It would cause immediate death to a human on board. The limit of what a pilot can take is about 8 Gs. The trajectory of the object was extremely disconcerting. It arrived at 1,700 meters altitude, then it dove rapidly toward the ground at an altitude under 200 meters, and in doing so escaped from the radars of the fighters and the ground units at Glons and Semmerzake. This maneuver took place over the suburbs of Brussels, which are so full of man-made lights that the pilots lost sight of the object beneath them. . . .

"Everything indicates that this object was intelligently directed to escape from the pursuing planes. During the next hours the scenario repeated twice. . . .

"This fantastic game of hide and seek was observed from the ground by a great number of witnesses, among them 20 national policemen who saw both the object and the F-16s. The encounter lasted 75 minutes, but nobody heard the supersonic boom which should have been present when the object flew through the sonic barrier. No physical damage was reported. Given the low altitude and speed of the object, many windows should have been broken."

This case has all the hallmarks of the classic USAF jet-scrambling cases of the 1950s and 1960s, with one notable exception: the Belgian Air Force is not covering up anything.

For a full translation of the *Paris-Match* article, write to: Robert J. Durant, 106 Hessian Hill Drive, Pennington, NJ 08534. ■

EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

have spouted pronouncements hardly less fatuous; there are, for example, those who whisper that this same debunker is a paid agent of the cover-up. But usually ufologists reserve their most venomous attacks for their colleagues. As Daniel Cohen once observed, in ufology "charges like 'blind' and 'stupid' are the nice things you say about your enemies, and sometimes the nice things you say about your friends. . . . Vendettas can be fiercer between people who agree with one another than they are between believers and skeptics."

The rhetoric of the Gulf Breeze debate—with honorable exceptions on both sides—has been poisonous even by ordinarily dismal standards. Some individuals have acted as if their particular interpretations were so self-evidently correct that only depravity and brain damage would prevent anyone else from rushing to embrace them. I have read letters, white papers and monographs in which the parts that were not irrational were insulting or incoherent. I sometimes had the impression these were exercises not in ufological debate but in writing therapy. Whatever they were, they weren't science, though perhaps the poor souls who wrote them felt better after they got things off their chests.

Those with sufficient stamina—and if by now the very thought of Gulf Breeze threatens to knock you into a coma, you are hardly the only one struggling to stay conscious—should read Bruce Maccabee for the defense and Zan Overall for the prosecution. Maccabee's papers have appeared in various issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal* and in the 1988 and *1990 MUFON Symposium Proceedings*; write MUFON at 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155, for specifics. CUFOS has just published a monograph by Zan Overall, *Gulf Breeze Double Exposed*; see ad elsewhere in this issue. These writings summarize the debate prior to the most recent developments and focus on substantive (i.e., non *ad hominem*) matters as they have been identified and analyzed by two eminently rational men who happen to have come to opposite conclusions.

The nastiness of the Gulf Breeze debate—I refer here to the peculiarly personal level on which much of the discourse has been conducted—tells us, if we didn't know or suspect it already, that some of our number behave on occasion like self-righteous boors. It also reminds us that ufology is a small, sometimes claustrophobic world. All of us who care enough about this subject to read, write or attend conferences about it come to know each other at times all too well, and in the UFO world, as in the larger world, familiarity breeds, if not contempt, at least exasperation. Consequently we may be tempted to ascribe legitimate intellectual differences to personality defects in others (never in ourselves, it goes without saying). Thus when an argument comes to resolution—which doesn't happen in ufology as often as it does in fields with firmer knowledge bases—the winner may conclude not just that his viewpoint is the correct one but that his suspicions about his adversary's intellectual and emotional limitations have been substantiated. In reality, all he is likely to have established is that in this instance he was right and the other guy was wrong, and because all of us are right sometimes and wrong other times, the next time around the results may be the reverse.

Somebody's wrong about Gulf Breeze. So? As the history of science voluminously attests, it is possible for a reasonable person, using good arguments based on the best available evidence, to arrive at a conclusion that subsequently turns out to have been dead wrong. In such eventualities, there are, of course, lessons to be learned. Either the investigator overlooked or misjudged what proved to be a significant bit of contrary evidence, or no such evidence existed at the time he was grappling with the problem. The well-intentioned investigator pays heed and carries the lessons with him into his next endeavor. He would merit severe criticism only if it can be shown that he behaved foolishly, recklessly or dishonorably.

Where Gulf Breeze is concerned, there is plenty of criticism to go around. Neither side can lay claim to a monopoly on virtue. In the meantime the least we can do is keep in mind that ufology will survive Gulf Breeze and, that being the case, we'd better not forget we all have to live together. Being courteous when we disagree is not just the appropriate ethical course but the most clearly practical one; after all, who would wish to surround himself with overbearing oafs who disdain dissent and dissenters, or to be such a monster himself? As for those who resisted the temptation to throw civilized discourse to the breeze, some will be vindicated and some will not be so fortunate; but when the facts are in, all will be victors because in the end what they wanted all along, the truth, won out. —*Jerome Clark*

The current literature

Boyd, Robert D. *The Gulf Breeze UFO Photographs: An Historical Record.* Mobile, Ala.: The author, June 1990. [113 pages]. $15.00, available from CUFOS.

No one, believers nor skeptics, can deny that the Gulf Breeze case is an extremely complex affair. After you tackle Bruce Maccabee's analysis of Ed Walters's photos in the *1988 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings,* you might wish to attempt the three major papers in this compilation of Bob Boyd's writings from 1988, not widely available until now. "Gulf Breeze: Comparing the First Story" outlines some of Boyd's reservations about the photos; "Failure at Science" is a critical, technical examination of the principal photos; and "The Gulf Breeze Connection" is a preliminary analysis of the ghost-demon photo and its ramifications. The difficulties and complexities of Gulf Breeze are both overwhelming and enlightening.—*George M. Eberhart.*